



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Chicago Ecological Services Field Office
1250 South Grove Avenue, Suite 103
Barrington, Illinois 60010
Phone: (847) 381-2253 Fax: (847) 381-2285

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/AES-CIFO/

October 31, 2008

Ms. Linda Holst
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Dear Ms. Holst:

This responds to your letter dated October 20, 2008 requesting information on endangered or threatened species for the Lower Des Plaines River from upstream of the I-55 bridge to the confluence with the Kankakee River during the months of November through April. ExxonMobil Oil Corporation is requesting a site-specific Water Quality Standard revision for total dissolved solids.

Based on the information provided in your submittal and a review of our records, we do not believe that any federally endangered or threatened species occur in the vicinity of the site. This conclusion is based on the best available information, including information in your submittal, the scientific and technical literature, and our own files. Newer information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of listed species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change the conclusion. This could become more likely if projects experience significant delays in implementation. Feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential presence of federally listed species.

These comments only address federally listed species. Please contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for information on State-listed species. Also, we may have the opportunity to review the project for a broader range of fish and wildlife impacts if it requires a Section 404 permit. We are willing to work with you in advance of formal submittal if it would help streamline the approval process.

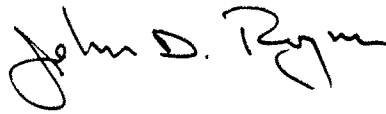
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Rec'd in WFOB

Ms. Linda Holst

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If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cathy Pollack at 847/381-2253 ext. 20, or Ms. Karla Kramer at 847/381-2253 ext. 12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John D. Rogner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a stylized "R".

John D. Rogner
Field Supervisor